



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
RICHARD A. LEOPOLD, DIRECTOR

Re: UPDATE ON LEAD IN VENISON
From: Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa Department of Public Health
Date: 11-20-2008

Is wild game safe to eat? Recent concerns over the safety of venison harvested by hunters using lead ammunition prompted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct a study in North Dakota. The study compared the blood lead levels of people who consumed venison and other wild game with those who didn't. While the CDC study indicated a slight increase in blood lead levels for those who consumed wild game, they did not make any national recommendations for consumption of wild game harvested by hunters using lead ammunition.

Hunters may choose to avoid the potential for lead exposure by using non-lead ammunition. Additionally, hunters and processors should follow the processing recommendations distributed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. If you have concerns about consuming wild game, especially for children under the age of 6 and pregnant women who may be more vulnerable to the effects of lead, you may choose to minimize the amount of wild game you consume harvested with lead ammunition. The Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa Department of Natural Resources will continue to monitor the lead in wild game issue as additional information becomes available.

According to the Iowa Dept. of Public Health, the greatest lead-related risk in Iowa continues to be deteriorating lead paint in homes. Iowa law requires that all Iowa children receive a blood lead test before entering kindergarten. For more information on health issues regarding lead, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/lead_poisoning_prevention.asp.